

Mr. President, wake up. This terror is coming. For all we know, it is already on its way. For all we know, it is already here. For God's sake, secure our border, start enforcing our immigration laws, fully vet any asylum claims or refugees before they are admitted into our country. Or else, be prepared to bear the full condemnation of history for the terrors you will have set in motion against your country and your countrymen, betraying the highest trust in the land.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

TRENDING TOWARD AUTHORITARIANISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, author and historian Timothy Snyder said in his book, "On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century," that "history does not repeat, but it does instruct."

Indeed, we must constantly work to preserve our democratic institutions from those who wish to threaten them because one of the most powerful instructions or lessons from the last century is that democracy is deeply fragile, and more importantly, it can trend and fall into authoritarianism.

There are those in this country who are ignoring the lessons of the past, or worse. Some of the most popular news programs, Facebook groups, and social media networks are those that spread deliberate or negligent misinformation for partisan gain, sure, but for financial gain especially.

In 2018, the American Institutional Confidence Poll found that only 69 percent of Americans believed democracy is always preferable to any other kind of government. The remaining 31 percent either reported that they were open to authoritarianism under some circumstances or they were so disillusioned with politics that the type of government didn't matter.

While 69 percent may not seem alarming, it is nearly the same number of Hungarians who reported that democratic values, such as multiparty elections, were "very important" the same year that autocratic Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban began his ascent to power.

Alarming, American conservative pundits have been praising Orban for his brand of strongman authoritarianism for months, while Orban's rule has been marked by state control of the media; restrictions on LGBTQ and immigrant communities; and suppression of free speech, a free media, and political opposition.

Despite Orban's assault on global democratic values, conservative commentators here at home have endorsed his policies and have held him up as an example of what Americans should

look for in a leader. These pundits have praised him for rejecting immigrants and refugees and have embraced his brand of ethno-religious nationalism.

This praise for autocratic leaders and authoritarianism is dangerous.

Perhaps many believe that what happened in Hungary, the swift consolidation of political power and manipulation of political institutions, could not happen here. But one of the important lessons of the Trump Presidency is that we cannot afford to be complacent.

Over the past 4 years, we watched media and leaders on the right excuse or even support former President Trump as he leaned into authoritarianism and incited violence. During his time in office, the former President's actions often echoed those of strongmen like Orban.

The former President used his office to target political rivals, including the efforts in Ukraine that ultimately led to his impeachment, treated the Department of Justice as his own personal police force, violently put down protests against him, used the Presidency to enrich himself, embraced political strongmen across the globe, and intentionally inflamed political tensions to his own benefit.

I believe history can and should continue to inform us, but we don't have to look back very far. The trends developing around the world and in our own country are warning about the threat of authoritarianism.

At a time when political polarization has led to violent attacks on democratic institutions across the country and in this very room, it is reckless to be feeding into these divisions.

They are preying on deep ideological divides in this country and on their followers' fears. They exploit economic anxieties and concerns over immigration and globalization. They advocate for a society where the voices of those who offer different opinions are threatened or silenced.

A poll just released by the Public Religion Research Institute found that 40 percent of those who subscribe to the farthest right media agree with the statement that "true American patriots may have to resort to violence in order to save this country."

These statistics should be alarming to all of us. But those who peddle incendiary and harmful rhetoric are using the trends toward authoritarianism to their cynical advantage.

Authoritarianism thrives on polarization and uncertainty. Those who exploit, not repair, these cracks in our democracy do so for the explicit purpose of increasing their own power.

We must recognize their true intentions and work to preserve the democracy they seek to threaten.

All media outlets have an obligation to present Orban and others like him as they are, repressive demagogues who threaten liberty and the rule of law.

We must continue to recognize our common interests and those that have

made our country the envy of the world: our freedoms of expression, economic mobility, and our deep cultural richness.

Orban's rule is a warning to all of us.

RECOGNIZING STAFF OF LEVINE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the 117th CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an example of service beyond the call of duty of two surgeons and an amazing team of nurses and staff working at the Levine Children's Hospital located in Charlotte, North Carolina.

On Sunday, August 22, 2021, while enjoying a relaxing day at our family farm, our 5-year-old grandson, Blair Beckham, got his hand entangled in the steel winch located at the front of a four-wheeler while attempting to pull a canoe out of a pond.

I was able to pull his hand out of the winch just before his entire arm would have been severed by the steel pulley, but not before his index finger was severed and attached only by a single artery and his middle finger remained attached, but all veins, bones, and joints were totally shattered.

I immediately wrapped his hand in a towel and drove to the emergency room at our local hospital, where he spent 3 hours before the ambulance transported him to Levine Children's Hospital located in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The ambulance arrived at the Levine Children's Hospital at 9 p.m., and it was there that Dr. Dan Lewis, a faculty member of OrthoCarolina and a member of the American Association of Hand Surgeons, and Dr. Keith Nord, who had instructed the staff at the emergency room at Piedmont Medical Center on the medical procedures to take while Blair was being transported to the Levine Children's Hospital and who was a specialist in hand surgery and serving a fellowship at the hospital, examined Blair and scheduled him immediately for emergency surgery that night.

The expedient and easy determination for these doctors to make would have been to amputate both fingers, as the loss of two fingers was not life-threatening and the surgery involved attaching the index finger, which was dangling by a lone vein, which was the size of one-fourth of the width of a human hair, and totally reconstructing the middle finger, which was completely shattered. The decision, however, was made to attempt to save the two fingers and to perform a surgery that lasted over 5 hours, beginning on a Sunday night at 11:30 p.m. and ending at 4:30 a.m.

Blair stayed in Levine Children's Hospital for 8 days, August 22 through August 29, where he had medical leech

therapy, which is a rarely used treatment prescribed by Dr. Lewis that provided the necessary suction for obtaining adequate blood flow for the severed finger.

Dr. Lewis and Dr. Nord, along with the entire nursing staff, went above the call of duty to take part in a successful surgery lasting over 5 hours, until the middle of the night, in order that a 5-year-old boy could have a normal hand with all five fingers.

The 2 weeks of post-op care by Dr. Lewis and Dr. Nord was exceptional, and Blair now has the full use of the two once-damaged fingers on a fully functional hand.

The dedication and passion that Dr. Lewis and Dr. Nord demonstrated, along with the nurses and staff, where they were willing to sacrifice their time and use their medical talent to perform a surgery that had a minimal chance of success was a testament to the age-old statement "service above self."

Dr. Dan Lewis and Dr. Keith Nord are a living testimony of the Hippocratic oath, which they swore to uphold as medical professionals. As the ending statement reads, "May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help."

May God bless those two doctors and nurses and staff that made this surgery a total success.

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FEDERAL TRIO PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss something that is very, very important to me as public policy, but it is something that is really personal to me, and that is the Federal TRIO Programs.

The TRIO programs are a set of higher education initiatives authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965 that provide an educational opportunity to first-generation, low-income students.

You see, in 1969, at age 18, as a high school senior, I became pregnant with my first daughter, Jesselynne. I was a college-bound student, suddenly feeling that I was derailed from my prospects and my future, but the outreach of the TRIO programs in Marquette University enabled me to get a high-quality education at Marquette University, else I might have slipped through the cracks.

You see me here standing today as a Member of Congress, but even prior to that, I contributed greatly to my community, because of my educational opportunity, as someone who created affordable housing through our State agency, put together a financial institution, a credit union for low-income communities to fill the financial gaps, and contributed in so many other

ways, including paying taxes—and by the way, my daughter is a special education teacher today.

But without TRIO support, I wouldn't be here, and there are so many other millions of young people who are talented, but they are just poor and don't have the family background to enable them to get to college. Access to quality and affordable education can change your entire life because a college education is one of the greatest democratizers and greatest equalizers in our democratic society. And that is why it has been the honor of my career to be the cochair of the bipartisan TRIO Caucus here in Congress to pay it forward for the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce a resolution, along with my cochair, MIKE SIMPSON, in recognizing November 8 as National First-Generation Celebration Day, a day that commemorates the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965 by President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

I thank the many Members who signed on to our resolution, especially our Senate cosponsors, Senator WARNOCK, a TRIO alum, and Senator MARSHALL, a first-generation college graduate, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to highlight how the Build Back Better Act will help to advance the goal of helping more first generation and students of modest means get to college and be able to benefit from the programs like TRIO that can help to ensure that they graduate and gain the skills necessary to participate in our ever, ever complicated economy. And without efforts to make higher education affordable and reducing the debt burden on our students, I am afraid that many students will never have the opportunity to benefit from TRIO, so we need to do more to make sure that cost is not a barrier to quality higher education.

And that is why I think the Build Back Better effort—and I just want to call out Chairman BOBBY SCOTT for all the work he did in increasing the maximum Pell grants to help low-income students get to college. It is clear that Pell grants haven't kept up with the rising costs of college and would provide \$500 million over 7 years for grants to States and institutions of higher education and Tribal communities and universities to improve student outcomes, including enrollment retention, completion, and employment placement.

So I just thought it was important to say that when the Build Back Better bill gets to the floor, we should all support it for the educational initiatives that are in it.

But the story of TRIO is a remarkable one that benefits students of all races, creeds, colors, both genders, veterans. It ought to be celebrated.

Mr. Speaker, I am urging, when it comes to the floor, that you all support the bipartisan resolution to celebrate National First-Generation Day.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF KELLY ROWE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a trusted leader in Lubbock County and a man I am blessed to call a dear friend, Sheriff Kelly Rowe.

Sheriff Rowe was recently elected by his peers to be president of the Sheriff's Association of Texas. I can think of no better Texas lawman to represent the character and noble calling of the law enforcement profession, and the central tenet of a free society, law and order, than Kelly Rowe.

Sheriff Rowe served in the United States Army and the Texas National Guard. He has been part of the Sheriff's Department since 1999, but he has been our sheriff for the last decade.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, law enforcement in Texas is under tremendous strain as they work to protect our citizens and secure our southern border, which is in complete chaos as a result of our Federal Government's failure to defend our country and our President's failure to uphold the laws of the land. As unprecedented numbers of crime, drugs, and gangs pour through our open border, our law enforcement officers have never been more important to the safety of our neighborhoods and our families. Sheriff Rowe is a leader among his colleagues and the Lone Star State is safer and stronger as a result of his service.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank his lovely wife, Nola, and their family for sharing Kelly selflessly with our communities. Law enforcement, as you know, is a family commitment. It is a family sacrifice.

So congratulations to Sheriff Rowe on this great honor. We are incredibly grateful for his service. We are extremely proud of his leadership contributions to West Texas and beyond.

God bless the men and women in blue. God bless America. And go West Texas.

CONGRATULATING BRYAN MUDD

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bryan Mudd on 20 years of service at KAMC, which is a local television station there in Lubbock. Bryan's dedication to keeping the citizens of Lubbock and the surrounding area informed about what is happening at home and across this country has been invaluable to West Texas.

Bryan and his wife, Sherry, are both servant leaders who go above and beyond their work to give of their time and talents to support many causes and multiple non-profits in our community. And I know their fellow West Texans and I am deeply grateful for their efforts.

I have always appreciated Bryan and his commitment to excellence in journalism and his unwavering dedication to bringing timely, fair, and balanced news to the people of West Texas.